

REMARKS

Claims 4, 8 and 10 are cancelled and claims 1, 5, 6 and 11 are amended herein. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 and 11 are pending and under consideration. Claim 5 is objected to.

Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites the ground member is a torsion spring that is wrapped around the frame and has a first end elastically contacting the pinch roller and a second end elastically contacting the frame. Present FIG. 2 illustrates these features, as an example.

The Examiner relies upon the pinch finger 191 of Jackson as corresponding to the claimed ground member, and the rearward portion 186 of Jackson as corresponding to the claimed frame. However, the pinch finger 191 is not wrapped around the rearward portion 186. Instead, this element is riveted to the metal 172 with rivets 174. Furthermore, the rivets 174 fix the pinch finger 191 and thus prevent elastic contact between the pinch finger 191 and the rearward portion 186.

Furthermore, as previously argued, Jackson does not disclose that the shaft of the pinch roller is rotatably supported on the holder. In response to this argument, the Examiner relies upon the leaf spring 188, stating “[t]he leaf spring 188 supports the underside of the shaft of the pinch roller.” Office Action, p. 6. However, FIG. 2 of the reference illustrates that the leaf spring 188 is above the axle 182.

With respect to Saito, the Examiner relies upon the plates 48 as corresponding to the claimed ground member. However, this element is not a torsion spring.

When discussing Saito, the Examiner states that “[e]lement 191 is a metal spring.” Office Action, p.5. However, the Examiner appears to be referring to the pinch finger 191 of Jackson, as this feature was discussed at page 3 of the Office Action.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

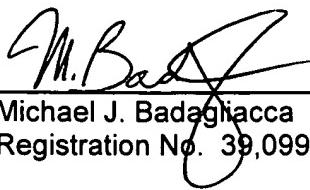
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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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